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AUTHOR	Dean, Joan
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ABSTRACT

This book offers suggestions to primary schools about how they can improve their work in preparing children for a rapidly changing world. Chapter 1 sets the stage by considering various definitions of educational improvement, efficacy, and goals. Chapter 2 assesses research on school effectiveness and critically considers components of school research. Chapter 3 discusses aspects of school culture. Chapter 4 looks at school development planning. Chapter 5 focuses on effective leadership. Chapter 6 considers roles of coordinators, specialist teachers, organization of classes, grouping by ability, use of time, differences in children, and keeping records. Chapter 7, on teaching and learning, looks at matching work to children, structuring learning, cooperative group work, and teaching and learning styles. Chapter 8 focuses on personal and social education. Chapter 9, on managing change, discusses the role of headteacher, planning for change, and problems of change. Chapter 10 explores the need for professional development. Chapter 11 discusses the importance of parents, governors, and the community. Chapter 12, on evaluation, considers its purpose, how to plan it, the role of governors, and helping children evaluate their work. Chapter 13 concludes with an admonishment to make education meaningful to children, and to teach them people and communication skills to help prepare them for the modern workplace. (Contains 210 references.) (RT)

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